

to pay benefits, we are perpetuating a cruel hoax where we are going to end up, in 12 or 15 years, having to make excruciatingly painful choices. These are not just choices about spending cuts versus taxes, but really they are choices we will have to make between our parents and our children, between the security of our parents and the economic opportunity of our children. We will have to make those choices because of failed leadership right now to deal with this issue.

I did not want to pass up this chance to say to my colleague from New York I am glad he came our way. I am proud to call him my friend and colleague.

I remember the first dealing I ever had with the Senator from New York. It was on a TV talk show. I don't know if he remembers it. We sort of had a sharp exchange. I would like to say I am not as ignorant as I used to be. I thank our colleague from New York for being an instructor for me and for America. I am proud of his academic background. I am proud to share it with him.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I thank my learned and ever accommodating—almost always accommodating friend. I have learned so much from him. If he knew how little economics I brought to this body, he would appreciate how much he has added to it. I am grateful, as a scholar ought to be. Across the aisle, I admire him so much and only wish he were on this side. But he has helped both sides on the issues that matter. That is what is important. I thank my friend.

DECISIONS FOR THE NEW CONGRESS

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I want to comment on where we are. I am sure the American people are confused. They hear the President saying one thing, they hear Congress saying another. They see chaos, they see gridlock, they see politics as usual. I am sure they are wondering what is this all about. Let me try, in the remaining moments I have, to explain.

We are at the end of an 8-year Presidency. Americans are going to the polls next Tuesday to make a fundamental decision. But we have a President in the White House now who would like to make the decision for the future while he is still President, by forcing Congress to spend far beyond the budget he wrote and far beyond the budget he wrote. The President has, in essence, said that if we will spend 30 percent more on social programs in Health and Human Services than we spent last year, if we will then make some permanent changes in law in addition to that spending, such as giving amnesty to people who have broken the Nation's laws and come to the country illegally, he will sign this bill and let us go home.

Let me tell you why we are not going to do that and why we are going to resist. First, I do not believe the Amer-

ican people want Bill Clinton, or this Congress for that matter, making decisions for the new President and the new Congress. It is time to have an election. It is time to move on. What we have is a President who almost is unhappy because the focus of attention is on the two men who are now running for President. And so, he believes that by vetoing bills he has agreed to sign and by demanding more and more spending, he gets his name back in the paper and gets on television.

Let me tell you why we should say no. We should say no because the American people ought to decide. If we did what Bill Clinton is calling on us to do, before the new President ever took his hand off the Bible we would have spent between a third and a half of the budget surplus.

I think the American people think they are deciding in this election. If people want to spend this money, they can vote for AL GORE. If they want to use the money to let working people have a tax cut and to invest it in rebuilding Social Security and Medicare, they can vote for George Bush. But however they are going to vote, Bill Clinton should not be making the decision to spend it before the American people can vote.

Let me convert it down to a simple number. For every day that we simply fund at this year's level the remaining parts of Government that are not yet appropriated for, we save between \$88 and \$133 million a year. By just continuing to fund at this year's level and waiting for the next President to arrive, over a 12-month period we would spend \$32 billion less by not creating all these new programs, by not hiring all these new Government employees, by not making the President the president of every school board in America.

Nobody knows what \$132 billion is so let me convert it into something you know. As you know, you can buy a very nice pickup truck for \$20,000. You can buy basically a loaded Chevrolet or Ford pickup, full-size pickup, for \$20,000. By simply saying no to Bill Clinton for 6 more days and simply leaving spending at its current level, we could buy 1.6 million pickup trucks. I think the American people understand what 1.6 million pickup trucks are.

I know there are some people who hope, even at this last minute, to cut a deal with Bill Clinton and bring to the floor of the Senate a bill that will spend \$32 billion more on social programs. Let me tell you, today is Wednesday. We are going to have an election on Tuesday. They have never put an election off in American history. I just want to say to people, a deal is not going to happen. If a deal is cut today, spending \$32 billion, basically taking 1.6 million pickup trucks right off people's driveways and out of their garages, I am going to object. We are not going to vote to spend that money before the people of America can vote in this election.

They are going to decide, depending on how they vote. They may tell us to spend it and a lot more, or they may say give some of it back. We may create a wealth base for Social Security but that is going to be decided by voters. But what is not going to be decided by this President and what is not going to be decided by this Congress before the election is that we are going to go on a massive spending spree. That is not going to happen.

How do I know it is not going to happen? Because today is Wednesday. Under the rules of the Senate, if a few people say no, it can't be done, it will not be done.

I think what we ought to do on a bipartisan basis is to pass a resolution funding the Government through the election, let the American people speak, and let them say what they want to happen with this money. Not Bill Clinton because he is on the way out. Let them say through this election and whom they elect what they want done.

It is not the time to be listening to the voices of the past. It is time to be looking to the future. Let's pass this CR through the election, keep spending where it is right now, and let the American people speak on Tuesday. Then we can come back here, we will have heard the message from back home, and we can respond to it.

I think that is the rational thing to do, and that is what I am going to support. I also believe that is what is going to happen.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

TRIBUTE TO TEXAS SAILORS LOST ABOARD THE U.S.S. "COLE"

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about a very sad time. It has been a sad time for America. I want to focus on the sadness in Texas.

Mr. President, last week Texas laid to rest three of her sons, killed in the terrorist attack on the U.S.S. *Cole*. Seaman Timothy Gauna of Rice, Petty Officer Ronchester Santiago of Kingsville, and Fireman Gary Swenchonis of Rockport, were killed in the October 12 disaster.

Since then, I have visited with the families of these three sailors. I met with some of them at the *Cole* memorial service in Norfolk, VA. Fine, loving individuals, they are trying, as we all are, to make sense of the senseless.

These young men had their lives ahead of them. They wanted to go to college, to travel, to raise their own families. They volunteered for the Navy because they loved their country and wanted to give something back, and now they are gone.

It may not be possible for us to understand the magnitude of this loss to the families involved.

Can we know the anguish of Mr. Swenchonis, whose son Gary was laid